

## ARE YOU SURE YOU ARE SAVED?

### INTRODUCTION:

Our topic for discussion this morning is the question: *Are you sure you are saved?*

- A. This is a question seldom discussed outside a sermon or bible class, nor pondered really all that seriously! And, although this IS IN A SERMON, I ask you to consider seriously, Do you believe you are in a saved condition right now?
1. Many who contemplate this question *feel for sure* that they are saved, but are mistaken.
  2. Many others **AREN'T SURE IF** they are saved, and answer with an: "I think so." "I hope so."
- B. In this lesson we will maintain that we can be sure we are saved.
1. **We can be sure** that we have salvation from past sins.
  2. **We can be certain** that our salvation is maintained on a daily basis.
  3. **We can know** that we'd have an eternal salvation in heaven if we should die today.

### I. FIRST, LET'S CONSIDER SOME UNRELIABLE MEANS OF ASSURANCE.

*(Things by which some **THINK** they are sure, but are mistaken).*

- A. Not by eerie feelings, and neither by conscience! **Acts 23:1; 26:9; 1 Tim.4:1-2-** *"But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, 2) by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron,"*
- B. Not a simple assumption on our part. **Prov.16:25-** *"There is a way which seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death."*
- C. Not by any promise of a preacher or priest. **Matt.7:15-** *"Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves."* **Rom.16:18-** *"For such men are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting."* **2 Cor.11:13-** *"For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ."* **Eph.4:14-** *"As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;"*
- D. Not just by some guarantees by our parents. If our parents have been deceived, they will pass their deception on to us.
- E. Not because we're doing what the majority does. **Matt.7:13-14**
- F. Not merely by the approval of our fellow men. **John 5:44**

### II. NOW, LET'S LOOK AT GOD'S MEANS OF ASSURANCE.

- A. Only by the inspired writings can we know. **1 Jno.5:13-** *"These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life."*
- B. How can we know we have salvation from past sins?
  1. **Rom.8:1, 16** – *"Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 16) The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,"*
    - a) The H.S. has given his testimony in the Word.
    - b) Our spirits testify that we have done those things.
    - c) Thus, the two agree, or witness together, that we are children.
  2. What has the Holy Spirit revealed?
    - a) HS has revealed Jesus' promised salvation – **Mk.16:16.**
    - b) The HS points out how to get into the location of Christ's salvation - **Gal.3:26-27**

- c) The blood of Christ washes away our sins. **Rev.1:5**- *"and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood--"*
- 1) **Acts 22:16**-shows at what point our sins are washed away as being the time when we're cleansed by HIS BLOOD!or remitted.
  - 2) Jesus shed His blood in His death. **Jno.19:34** We are baptized into His death. **Rom.6:3-4** Thus, we contact (receive the benefits of) the blood when we are baptized.
3. And so, we know we have salvation from past sins if we have walked exactly as the Spirit revealed, if we have obeyed the gospel plan of salvation in accepting His grace!
- C. How can Christians be sure of their salvation from day to day?
1. We must daily comply with the terms of God's GRACE. **1 Jno.1:6-2:5**- *"If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; 7) but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. 8) If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10) If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us." 2:1) "My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; 2) and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world. 3) By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4) The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; 5) but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him:"*
    - a) WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU WERE SURE YOU WERE SAVED?
    - b) ARE YOU AWARE OF ANYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED SINCE THEN TO CHANGE THAT RELATIONSHIP?
    - c) **Vs. 7** - ALL SINS, sins of thoughts, words, deeds, or even ignorance are cleansed.
    - d) God knows our weaknesses. **Vs. 8, 10**
      - 1) God wants us to be **perfect** (**Matt.5:48, complete/ mature/ full grown**), but He knows that we often do not measure up.
      - 2) When we do not measure up, He has provided a means of forgiveness. **2:1**- *"My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate [intercessor, consoler, comforter] with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;"*
  2. We must have a genuine love for the truth.
    - a) **2 Thess.2:10-11**- *"and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. 11) For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false,"*
    - b) Without Bible authority there is no assurance of salvation. **1 Thess.5:21**- *"But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good;"* **Jude 3** (must contend for the faith, not only for its purity or trueness, but also for adherence to IT!); 1 Tim.6:12- *"Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses."* 1 Jno.4:1- *"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world."*
  3. We must give diligence to make our calling and election sure. **2 Pet.1:5-11**
    - a) **Vs. 9** - shows what happens when these are not added (an ever-present danger). He that lacketh is BLIND, CAN'T SEE..., FORGOTTEN.

- b) **Vs. 10** - shows the secret of success - diligence. We will never stumble if we are diligent in doing those things.
- c) "*Giving all diligence*" - The assurance of salvation is found in the diligence on our part. (*Give diligence to make your calling & election sure.*) We know that God will always do His part. We must earnestly strive to do **WHATEVER** is our part.
- d) "*If these things be in you AND ABOUND*" (not barren nor unfruitful) "*and are increasing*" (NASV) We must continue to grow and develop spiritually!
4. We must continually strive to keep God's commandments. **I Jno.2:3-6**- "*By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4) The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; 5) but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: 6) the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.*"
- a) Thus, to be in union with God (having all the blessings available from God), we must keep His commandments. For examples: **1 Cor. 6:18**- "*Flee fornication.*" **1 Cor.11:24-25**- "*This do in remembrance of me.*"
- b) "*Keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him.*" Again, there must be diligence on our part. We must keep, or guard, ourselves.
5. When we continue to rely on God.
- a) God provides a way of escape. **1 Cor.10:13**
- b) Christ is able to aid those who are tempted. **Heb.2:18**- "*For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.*"
- c) We must come boldly to the throne of grace. **Heb.4:16**- "*Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*"
- d) Remember that God is able to save us eternally. **Jude 24**- "*Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy.*"
- e) There is no uncertainty with God, but within **each of us** occasionally there surely will be.
- 1) This is why the Lord taught us to watch and pray always. **Lk.21:36**- "*But keep on the alert at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.*"
- 2) Prayer will bring peace into our hearts, when it's offered with an active, living, abiding faith. **Phil.4:6-7**- "*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7) And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*" **1 Thess.3:12-13**- "*and may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another, and for all people, just as we also do for you; 13) so that He may establish your hearts without blame in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.*"
- D. In addition to all the rest, THANK GOD that He has granted us a system of grace. **Rom.4:1-8**
1. In **Rom.4:1-8** Paul is showing that a system of works, or works alone will not justify.
- a) **Vs. 2** - "*For if Abraham was justified by works (by a system of works, by works alone), he has something of which to boast, but not before God (because he did it himself).*"
- b) **Vs. 3** - His faith was accounted for righteousness.
- c) **Vs. 4** - "*Now to him who works (works perfectly, lives by a system of works) the wages are not counted as grace but as debt (if he worked perfectly).*"
- d) **Vs. 5** - "*But to him who does not work (does not work perfectly, does not rely on a system of works or law) but believes...his faith is accounted...*"

- e) **Vs. 6** - "...*Apart from works* (apart from perfect works, from a system of works).
  - f) **Vs. 7-8** - Sins forgiven is emphasized.
2. When we ***DON'T*** live up to **GOD'S STANDARD**, any so-called faith we may SUPPOSE we have will ***NOT*** be counted for our righteousness.
- a) The Law of Moses demanded perfect obedience. **Gal.3:10**- "*For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse; for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO DOES NOT ABIDE BY ALL THINGS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW, TO PERFORM THEM."*"
  - b) Under the N.T. system of grace, when one does not keep the commandments perfectly, his faith is accounted for righteousness when we are AIMED, or DEDICATED to God's righteousness, even though at times we DO temporarily falter along the way!

### **CONCLUSION:**

- A. Are you sure you are saved? How can we know we are saved?
- B. Review of the main points:
  - 1. We must daily comply with the terms of pardon.
  - 2. We must have a genuine love for truth.
  - 3. We must give diligence to make our calling election sure.
  - 4. We must continue to keep God's commandments.
  - 5. We must continue to rely on God.
- C. Let us be thankful that God has given us a system of grace.

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CLW/David J. Riggs